REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-49 are pending in the present application and remain in this application for prosecution. Claims 1, 8-10, 14, 24, 33, 41, and 48 have been amended.

Ambiguity of Rejections

Initially, the Applicants respectfully note that the office action is ambiguous as to which claims are rejected based on which references.

For example, ¶ 2 of the office action alleges that claims "1-13" are unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0216169A1 to Walker *et al.* ("Walker") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0266507A1 to Cooper *et al* ("Cooper"). However, ¶¶ 3-18 of the office action, which describe in more detail the rejections with respect to each claim, also refer to additional claims 15-17, 25, 26, 30, 34, 35, 37, 39, and 42-49. Thus, it is unclear whether these additional claims were simply omitted from ¶ 2 of the office action, or if these additional claims should not be included in ¶¶ 3-18 of the office action.

Similarly, in another example, ¶ 2 of the office action refers only to Walker and Cooper. However, ¶ 14 also relies on U.S. Patent No. 5,820,460 to Fulton ("Fulton") to allegedly show "motivation" for combining Walker and Cooper. Thus, it is unclear whether Fulton was simply omitted from ¶ 2 of the office action, or if Fulton should not be included in ¶ 14 of the office action.

Further, the office action cites only to "lines 16-24" of Fulton in support for the alleged motivation of combining Walker and Cooper. The office action fails to cite a specific column of Fulton. Thus, the Applicants are left guessing as to where in Fulton the support for the alleged motivation can be located.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the office action does not present the rejections in a clear manner so that the Applicants can adequately respond. Nevertheless, the Applicants provide below comments and arguments to the extent of their understanding of the rejections.

Rejections

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 25, 26, 30, 34, 35, 37, 39, and 42-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Walker in view of Cooper and, apparently, further in view of Fulton.

Claims 14-23, 26, 27, 29, 31-33, 36, 38, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Walker and Cooper and further in view of Marks.

Claims 24-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Walker, Cooper, Marks, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055382 to Meyer.

Cited References Fail To Teach Or Suggest At Least Two Claim Elements

Claims 1, 10, 14, 24, 33, and 41 - Second Wager Risked On Same Randomly Selected Outcome

The office action admits that Walker fails to teach a second wager that "is risked on the same wagering game." However, the office action alleges that Cooper teaches this claim element.

Cooper discloses a poker game in which a player can "allocate wager(s) to any, some or all game hands and prompt play." Cooper, ¶ 22. Further, the "wager may be allocated to a single hand, between several hands or a portion allocated to each game hand." *Id.* Thus, the player in Cooper can allocate a first wager to a first poker hand and a second wager to a second poker hand. However, each poker hand necessarily requires its own randomly selected outcome. In other words, the first poker hand has a corresponding first randomly selected outcome, *e.g.*, a full house, and the second poker hand has a corresponding second randomly selected outcome, *e.g.*, a royal flush. The wagers, then, can only be allocated (or risked) on separate randomly selected outcomes.

Independent claims 1, 10, 14, 24, 33, and 41 have been amended to further clarify that the second wager is being risked on the "same randomly selected outcome of the wagering game as the first wager." For example, the first and second wagers are detected on the same reel spin (*e.g.*, same randomly selected outcome), wherein the first wager is

detected before playing the reels spin and the second wager is detected after two reels have stopped and while three reels are still spinning. *See, e.g.*, Description Of The Preferred Embodiments, ¶66. Clearly, in contrast to Cooper, which teaches that a second wager may be allocated for a second randomly selected outcome (*i.e.*, a second poker hand), the pending claims are directed to detecting a second wager on the same randomly selected outcome (*e.g.*, the same reel spin).

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 10, 14, 24, 33, and 41, along with all claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Walker in view of Cooper at least because Cooper fails to disclose a second wager being risked on the same randomly selected outcome as a first wager.

Claims 9 and 10 - Displaying A Partial Outcome Of The Randomly Selected Outcome

The office action further admitted that Walker fails to teach displaying "a partial outcome of the game and displaying a full outcome of the game in response to the second wager." The office action alleges that Cooper teaches this claim element.

As explained above, the first and second wagers in Cooper are directed to corresponding poker hands, which necessarily require corresponding randomly selected outcomes. While Cooper may teach the displaying of a first hand of the poker game and, then, the displaying of a second hand of the poker game, Cooper does not teach that a partial hand is displayed and that a full hand is displayed in response to a second wager.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to "displaying a partial outcome of the randomly selected outcome . . . the randomly selected outcome being displayed in full in response to detecting the second wager." Similarly, claim 10, as amended, is directed to "displaying a partial outcome of a randomly selected outcome . . . [and] in response to detecting the second wager . . . displaying a full outcome of the randomly selected outcome." Cooper fails to teach these claim elements.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 10, along with all claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Walker in view of Cooper at least because Cooper fails to disclose displaying a partial outcome of a randomly selected

outcome and, in response to detecting a second wager, a full outcome of the randomly selected outcome.

Fulton Fails To Provide A Motivation For Combining Walker And Cooper

The office action alleges that Fulton provides the motivation to "incorporate Cooper's teachings to provide the player with a chance of a higher payout ratio after the game has started." Although it is unclear where the motivation is disclosed in Fulton, the Applicants' review shows that Fulton teaches increasing a wager because you are likely to win on both a first and a subsequent wager, not because you want to increase your odds of winning on the first wager.

For example, Fulton describes that a player is given the option of making an additional wager so that the player has a "chance of increasing his winning payout even though that player may have already received a definite indication of success." Fulton, col. 1, ll. 54-59 (emphasis added). In other words, a player in Fulton's wagering game can make a second wager after he or she already knows that he or she has won a winning payout. The second wager does not accumulate more value for the first wager. The second wager accumulates more value for the second wager.

In contrast, the pending claims are directed to accumulating more value for the first wager. Claims 1, 10, and 33, are each directed to "increasing an expected value of payouts associated with the first wager so that the player can accumulate more value for the first wager." Claim 14 is directed to "increasing a value payout average associated with the first wager so that the player can accumulate more value as a result of the first wager." Claim 24 is directed to "enhancing at least one value payout amount associated with the first wager so that the player can accumulate more value for the first wager." Claim 41 is directed to "increasing at least one value of payouts associated with the first wager so that the player can accumulate more value for the first wager."

Fulton's teaching is not directed to accumulating more value for the first wager but to accumulating more value for the second wager. Thus, Fulton fails to provide a

motivation for combining Walker and Cooper at least because it fails to teach accumulating more value for the first wager.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 10, 14, 24, 33, and 41, along with all claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Walker in view of Cooper and (apparently) Fulton, at least for the above stated applicable reasons.

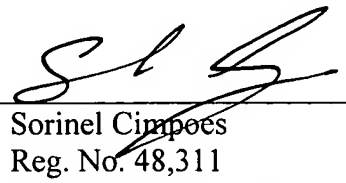
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

A check for $120 is enclosed for a one-month extension of time fee. It is believed that no other fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees (except for payment of the issue fee) from Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000261USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 20, 2007

By 

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